

# West Virginia Governor's School For Mathematics and Science



**A Handbook for Students and Their Families**

***West Virginia State University***  
***Rising Ninth Graders***

**July 13 – 26, 2015**

**West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts**

## WELCOME

**Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and** the Department of Education and the Arts are proud to present the West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science at West Virginia State University in Institute. According to the National Science foundation, "The 21st century, scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly important as we face the benefits and challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based economy. To succeed in this new information-based and highly technological society, students need to develop their capabilities in STEM to levels much beyond what was considered acceptable in the past."

Governor's Schools are truly a community effort. Funded by the legislature and requested in the governor's budget, all of the Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of 96 of the state's most promising math and science students who will be 9<sup>th</sup> graders next year. The host institution, West Virginia State University, is instrumental in seeing to it that the GSMS experience is unforgettable for the students.

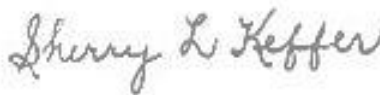
The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions that parents/guardians have about the Governor's School for Mathematics and Science (GSMS). Participation in the GSMS is an opportunity for students to meet and interact with other students and adults in an academic environment that facilitates and encourages exploration and understanding of advanced topics in mathematics and science.

We are happy to congratulate you, not only for exploring the world of science and math, but for having the wisdom to know that GSMS is where you should spend two exhilarating weeks this summer. The Governor's Schools have long been shining stars in our state's education opportunities. You are now part of that magnificent radiance.

Sincerely,



Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary  
Education and the Arts



Sherry Keffer  
Director of Governor's Schools

## INTRODUCTION

### STUDENTS

Your attendance at a Governor's School is a challenging opportunity for you to meet and interact with other students and adults in an enriched, relaxed, academic environment where you may explore studies of particular interest to you. You will be living and learning on the campus of one of West Virginia's finest institutions of higher education as you represent your school and county in this unique experience.

Your days at the Governor's School will be memorable. While broadening your knowledge base, you will find that potential for learning will be challenged as you discover new horizons. Moreover, you will become a member of a network of talented young West Virginians whose friendships will serve to support you throughout your lifetime.

Your acceptance of this opportunity carries with it an agreement to govern your behavior with integrity and respect. You are to abide by all rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary in order for you to have the best possible learning experience.

Read this booklet carefully to familiarize yourself with the information you will need in order to have a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor's School.

## Student Policies

### RESIDENCY

1. The Governor's School is intended to be an intensive residential learning experience; **therefore, students are expected to remain on campus for the duration of the school, including weekends.**
2. Exceptions to this policy can be granted only in the event of a verified emergency. Students will need to request permission from Program Director, Dr. Sean Collins, stating the nature of the emergency, and must inform their resident assistant of the expected times for leaving and returning. Emergency leave shall not exceed 12 hours for any reason.
3. Students may not leave campus. All trips from the residential dorm will require supervision.

### Visitors

1. Students are not to entertain non-Governor's School visitors.
2. Non-participants (legislators, the media, etc.) who wish to observe the instructional program must register with the WVSU Office of University Relations, (304) 761-3363.
3. Families are requested not to visit during GSMS so that students will have sufficient time to focus on their studies and interact socially with other Governor's School students.
4. Students may visit with the opposite gender only in the lounge areas. Visitation with the opposite gender in individual rooms is not permitted.

## Participation and Attendance

1. Students are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes, seminars and special events. You are expected to participate actively in these instructional activities.
2. Students will receive a copy of the daily schedule when you arrive at GSMS. There is also a sample schedule on the web site ([www.wvgovschools.org](http://www.wvgovschools.org)). The location and time of special events will be announced.
3. If it is necessary to miss a class or event, the student must report, IN ADVANCE, the anticipated absence and its reason to the faculty member. For seminars or special events, report to the resident assistant.

4. There will **not** be an opportunity for students to attend church, since GSMS is in session on Sundays. Students may practice private devotion time on their own.

## Medical Information

In the event that students should require medical attention, the WVSU Health Center is open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. At other times, emergency medical facilities are available at Thomas Memorial Hospital or local emergency care centers. All mentors will have received Red Cross first aid training. **Please alert the Governor's School staff of any medicine or food allergies or special medical problems so that we may make the proper accommodations.** Refrigerators are available for medicines that must be kept cold. Parents must provide a copy of the student's health care card. A photocopy is fine.

## Disciplinary Action

As a representative of your school, community and county, you are expected to be an exemplary citizen and participant. Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of the Governor's School. Disciplinary action in response to misbehavior is the responsibility of staff members.

There are three levels of discipline which are determined by the nature, frequency or severity of the infraction. These levels are not necessarily progressive.

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the GSMS Dean of Students.
2. Written warning by the Dean of Students in the form of a notice of disciplinary probation. A copy will be sent to the parent/guardian and local school counselor.
3. Dismissal by the dean in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff and state director of Governor's Schools.

Should a student be dismissed, parents must pick the student up no later than 12 hours after having been notified. Further, a letter setting forth the reason for the student's dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools. Once a student has been dismissed, he/she is not to return to GSMS for any reason. We have never had to dismiss a student from GSMS, and we hope not to.

Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Absence from campus without permission from the GSMS Dean
- b. Any unexcused absence
- c. Disobeying visitation policies
- d. The use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, whether on-campus or off-campus.
- e. Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person.

- f. Any other behavior deemed to be inappropriate, dangerous, or damaging to self, staff, guests, or the institution.

Destroying or damaging property is a serious matter requiring full compensation, resulting in a written warning, probation, or dismissal.

Students who are determined to have violated the tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances rule will be dismissed immediately.

## Safety and Security

- Always let someone know where you are going.
- Do not play with fire equipment.
- Never loan your key to anyone for any reason.
- Be sure to travel with a friend as much as possible.
- Report any suspicious people to your resident advisor immediately.

**Note:** When you are on field trips, you must stay in your chaperoned group at all times. Please realize that this rule is in place out of concern, not distrust. Children (even teenagers) are their parents' greatest treasure, and the Governor's Schools of West Virginia are committed to protecting that treasure.

## Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

Because class and evening activity times are for learning and focus, personal use of electronic devices – including pagers, cell phones, smart phones, PDAs, MP3 players, laptop computers, etc. – during class or event times is not permitted. Such devices must be left in the dormitory. You may, however, take the phone when GSMS is on an off-campus trip.

## Living Accommodations

### YOUR ROOM

1. You will be housed in Dawson Hall. Each room is furnished for two students with twin XL beds, desks, chairs, dressers, under-bed storage drawers, and two closets. Students in two rooms will share a connecting bathroom. Dawson Hall has a social lounge, laundry facilities, vending machines, and television viewing areas. The entire complex is air conditioned.

**PLEASE BRING LINENS** – twin XL sheets are preferable, pillow, blanket and towels.

2. You will be notified in advance of your roommate's name, email, and phone number.

You may wish to contact each other to plan who will bring items such as an iron.

3. You may bring an iPod or MP3 player but not a television. It is important that you respect the rights of your fellow students by not playing music that can be heard outside of your room. Use headsets or ear phones, if necessary.
4. You will be issued a card key to your room. A fee of \$25 will be charged to change the lock code if the key is lost or not returned.
5. Your room should be locked at all times when you and your roommate are gone. Missing items should be reported immediately to your resident assistant.
6. If you plan to keep snacks in your room, you must bring airtight containers for storage.
7. You and your roommate are ultimately responsible for the maintenance of your room, all activity that goes on in your room, and any damage that occurs during the Governor's School.
8. Your room should be made neat and orderly before your first morning class. It may be inspected at any time by residence hall personnel.

## **THE RESIDENCE HALL**

1. While living on campus, you will be under the guidance and supervision of an experienced dean of students and mentors.
2. The residence hall, classrooms, laboratories and other facilities should be kept neat, clean and undamaged. You will be expected to pay for any damages beyond normal wear for which you are responsible.
3. Possession or use of tobacco products is prohibited.
4. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances, or drugs other than prescribed and over-the-counter medications is prohibited during the entire Governor's School.
5. You must be inside the residence hall no later than 9 p.m. If an activity or special event lasts beyond 9, you will be given 15 minutes to reach your room upon conclusion of the event.
6. To ensure that everyone may be well rested for the GSMS program, quiet hours are to be observed in the residence hall from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This means that there should not be any sounds loud enough to disturb the study or sleep of your roommate, next door neighbor or other students. Lights must be out by 11 p.m.
7. Early in the program, a fire evacuation plan will be explained and a fire drill may be

held. When the alarm sounds, you must leave the building. You will be expected to report to an assigned area where roll will be taken.

8. No items are to be hung or displayed outside residence hall windows.

## **RESIDENCE HALL SERVICES**

Now that you've read the "cannots and musts," it's time to learn about where you will be staying and studying at West Virginia State University.

GSMS will be housed in the Dawson Hall residence hall on the Institute campus. It is located on Barron Drive.

The hall has three floors, each with study rooms. Students live in suites, which are two double rooms connected by a shared bathroom. A computer lab, lounges, study rooms, laundry room, and other amenities enhance the facility.

Mail is delivered to Dawson Hall daily. Outgoing mail will be picked up from Keith Hall, conveniently located near Dawson. Please bring postage stamps with you.

Letters should be addressed to:

Student's name  
WVGSMs, West Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 1001  
Institute, WV 25112

1. A telephone will be available that may be used for emergency purposes.
2. Laundry facilities are located on the first floor of Dawson Hall. You will need to supply your own detergent and other products as needed. A single wash or dry will cost \$.75. Staff will explain laundry card access. You may want to share an iron with your roommate.
3. Due to the schedule of the program, students will be unable to attend religious services during GSMS, as we will be in session on Sundays.
4. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the Goldston Dining Hall in the University Union. Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available during lunch and dinner.

## **CAMPUS RECREATION**

WVSU facilities are open for your use at appointed times. Activities available include table tennis, billiards, television and movies, tennis, and basketball.

## **BANKING**



Students should bring some spending money for things like trips to the mall or ice cream store, souvenirs from trips and munchies before bed. In spite of the fact we feed them very well, there always seems to be room for pizza or Chinese food at 9:30 p.m.! Students are strongly urged to put their money in the GSMS bank and simply draw out as much as they need each day.

## **Helpful Information**

### **DRESS AND GROOMING**

1. Dress should be casual but tasteful.
2. You will need one set of dress clothes ( boys- shirt and tie; girls - dresses suitable for attendance at banquets and other special occasions).
3. For your own safety, it is required that you wear shoes at all times when not on your residence hall floor.
4. Shoes and shirts are required in the dining hall at all times.

### **SPECIFIC CLOTHING YOU WILL NEED**

- A variety of shirts, blouses, tops of different weights (for rooms that are too cool)
- Shorts
- Jeans/slacks
- One dressy outfit suitable for a banquet
- Tennis shoes
- Dress shoes
- Swimsuit
- Beach towel
- Sleepwear
- Bathrobe and bedroom slippers
- Shower shoes
- Rain gear
- Lightweight jacket

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING**

**Note:** Electronics (iPod, cell phone, etc.) are the individual student's responsibility.

- Desk lamp (to supplement overhead lighting)
- iPod or MP3 player
- Tray/basket for toiletries
- Camera and memory card
- Games
- Personal sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Hair dryer
- Alarm clock
- Cosmetics/ toiletries
- Telephone cards
- Detergent for laundry
- Fan
- Microwave (small)

### **ITEMS YOU MAY NOT BRING**

- Televisions
- Hot plate/pot

- Popcorn poppers
- Air conditioners
- Refrigerator
- Desktop Computer

## **Advisory Council 2015**

### **Governor's Schools of W.Va. Advisory Council 2015**

The Governor's Schools Advisory Council advises West Virginia's Secretary of Education and Arts regarding site selections, program offerings and procedures for student and faculty selection. The advisory council meets two times a year, usually in Charleston.

Ms. Saralyn Dague, chair

Mr. Rob Aliff

Dr. Robert Baker

Mrs. Carrie Bledsoe

Dr. Christi Chambers

Dr. Sean Collins

Ms. Saralyn Dague

Mr. Bill Gibson

Mrs. Gretchen Gibson

Mrs. Pam Goots

Secretary of Education and the Arts Kay Goodwin

Mrs. Katie Hayes

Ms. Kitty McCarthy

Mrs. Vicky Mohnacky

Mr. Mark Payne

Mr. James Snyder

Mr. John Waltz

Mrs. Martha Woodward

#### **Student Representatives**

Bonnie Walton GHA

Derek Zelkowski GHA

Isabella Neer GSA

Mataio Swain, GSA

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: If I discover that I need to leave GSMS for a day to participate in another school-related activity, can I have a leave of absence?**

**A:** No, you may not. You will be a member of a research team and so your commitment to the GSMS and your team requires your full-time participation.

**Q: I am in the high school band. May I miss GSMS activities for a couple of hours each day to attend band practice?**

**A:** You may not. Students are to be in attendance at the GSMS for the entire time, including evenings and weekends.

**Q: My sister is getting married. May I miss GSMS a day to take part in the festivities?**

**A:** Again, you may not. If you know of an important event that is scheduled during the GSMS, you must make a choice before agreeing to attend the GSMS.

**Q: Can my parents visit during the GSMS?**

**A:** No, the GSMS is designed as a parent-free experience so that you can be totally focused on all of the activities planned for you.

**Q: Will I be able to leave the campus for any reason?**

**A:** You will only be able to leave campus only for official GSMS outings and verified emergencies.

**Q: If I get homesick, will I be allowed to go home?**

**A:** A bit of homesickness is not unusual. Please keep in mind, however, that your selection to attend the GSMS was very competitive and, if you choose to not complete the session, you will have prevented another student from attending. If a student leaves the GSMS before completing the program, the student's principal and superintendent will be notified. Furthermore, the student shall *not* make reference to being selected to attend the GSMS on further applications or resumes.

**Q: What is the policy for cell phones?**

**A:** Cell phones are only allowed on field trips and in student rooms. They may be used during evening hours, but not during daytime activities.

**Q: Will I be given time to attend church?**

**A:** The weekend that you'll be at GSMS is considered part of GSMS, so there will not be time for you to attend a formal worship service. You should plan for private devotion time.

## **Contact Information**

### **Important Phone Numbers**

**Dr. Sean Collins**  
**Program Director**

WVGSMSS  
West Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112

Phone: (304) 766-4150 (office); or (718) 354-7530 (cell)  
[scollin5@wvstateu.edu](mailto:scollin5@wvstateu.edu)

**Mr. Jarvis Purnell**  
**Director of Residence Life**

West Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112

Phone: (304) 766-3037 (office); (304) 539-2491 (cell)  
[jpurnell1@wvstateu.edu](mailto:jpurnell1@wvstateu.edu)

**Kitty McCarthy**  
**Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs**

West Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112

Phone: (304) 766-3039 (office); (815) 981-1537 (cell, emergency only)  
[kmccarthy@wvstateu.edu](mailto:kmccarthy@wvstateu.edu)

**Mrs. Sherry Keffer**  
**Director, Governor's Schools of West Virginia**

Office (304) 558-2440  
Home (304) 469-2251

[Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov](mailto:Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov)  
For emergency use only, cell: (304) 640-0988

**WVSU Health Center**

(304) 766-3181

begins at 3 p.m. You will be notified of the opening session site upon registration. At the end of the session, students are dismissed mid-day.

All forms are to be mailed to:

**Kitty McCarthy**

**Vice President for Enrollment Management and**

**Student Affairs**

**West Virginia State University (GSMS)**

**P.O. Box 1000**

**Institute, WV 25112**

**Postmarked by June 2, 2015**